291 particularly those of Turkestan proper, wear conical felt hats, the slashed brims of which are turned up. This type of headgear is demonstrably of great age. Indian miniatures of the time of the first Mogul emperors, i. e. the sixteenth century, show that such conical hats were frequently worn by the soldiers of those rulers. As the Mogul dynasty, and a great proportion of the armies with whose help it was founded, came from Turkestan, it is probable that the type of hat described above also originated there.

291 Belts and bags are also of leather. In one
281 of these bags, which are very strongly made, the Kirghiz carries his tea-making utensils. The pouches are usually bound or studded with metal, not only by way of decoration, but also to increase their strength. R. Karutz, who lived for a long time among the Kirghiz of the Caspian Sea, and who wrote at the beginning of the present century, gave a brief description of the treatment of hides. When scraped for dressing as leather, they are treated with a paste consisting of the boiled ashes of grasses which grow on the steppes. Hides which are to retain their hair are covered for a week with a paste of flour and sour milk. Pallas, too, was familiar with this method of treatment. Vámbéry described how a skin which was to be used for carrying water was salted.

291 The dress of Kirghiz women differs from that of the men in so far as the usually patterned outer garment is smock-like in cut and reaches to the ground in accordance with the custom in many Islamic countries. In addition they wear trousers which, like those of the men